Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 12469 210707Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 SS-15 SSO-00 /028 W
----------004846 210709Z /64
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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8911

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 12469

EA ONLY

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEAN, E
SUBJECT: US/ASEAN MINISTERIAL

1. AS I SAID TO OAKLEY IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION JULY 20, INITIAL PHILIPPINE REACTION TO NEWS THAT PRESIDENT'S PARTICIPATION IN ASEAN CONFERENCE WILL BE LIMITED TO A THIRTY MINUTE OFFICE CALL HAS BEEN TAKEN AS "SLAP IN THE FACE FOR ASEAN AND THE PHILIPPINES". (THIS WAS COMMENT OF FON MIN'S ASEAN COORDINATOR AMBASSADOR MANALO.) HER REACTION WILL LIKELY BE SHARED BY HER SENIORS PARTICULARLY SINCE MARCOS HAS GIVEN PERSONAL ATTENTION TO MAKE UP OF DELEGATION AND DIRECTED THAT IT BE BEEFED UP TO THREE MINISTERS IN LIGHT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S PARTICIPATION AND WIDE INVOLVEMENT OF US CABINET. THROUGH ROMULO, MARCOS HAS URGED ASEAN PARTNERS TO SEND STRONGEST POSSIBLE DELEGATIONS. AS OF TODAY WE UNDERSTAND FOUR ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL ATTEND; LEAVING ONLY INDONESIA TO BE REPRESENTED BY OTHER THAN ITS FOREIGN MINISTER.

2. OUR STAGE-MANAGING OF CONFERENCE IS GOING TO BE UNUSUALLY IMPORTANT GIVEN THE NUMBER AND PRESTIGE OF ASEAN MINISTERS INVOLVED, THE BACKGROUND OF OUR INITIATIVES TO
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ELEVATE CONFERENCE TO THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, AND THE PROBABLY LIMITED NATURE OF THE IMMEDIATE RESULTS WHICH WILL FOLLOW THE CONFERENCE. FOR THESE REASONS HOPE WE CAN MAINTAIN TOP LEVEL USG INVOLVEMENT.
RECOMMEND THAT IF PRESIDENT CANNOT HOST RECEPTION IN ADDITION TO OFFICE MEETING THAT: (A) THE VICE PRESIDENT HOST RECEPTION, (B) SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL HOST AUGUST 4

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LUNCH, AND (C) SECRETARY VANCE'S PARTICIPATION BE
MAXIMIZED. MURPHY

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NNN

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